

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

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LB 179

before the body is the adoption of the Wehrbein amendment to LB 179. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record. Record vote has been requested by Senator Suttle.

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 1383.)  
27 ayes, 11 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The amendment is adopted. Next item on the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Robak would move to amend with AM1064. (AM1064, Legislative Journal page 1287.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Robak, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This amendment adds those who have a mental impairment to the definition of "disability" for purposes of the homestead exemption. Page 7, line 6,...it would add "individuals who have mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as walking, talking, hearing, seeing, breathing, learning, performing manual tasks, caring for oneself, or working". And in line 12 strike "(c)" and insert "(d)"; in line 17, after the period, insert: for purposes of subdivision (d) of this section, substantially limits the individual...substantial limits means the individual is unable to perform or is significantly limited in the ability to perform an activity compared to an average person in the general population. When determining whether an individual's impairment substantially limits a major life activity, its nature and severity, how long it will last or is expected to last, and its permanent or long-term impact, or expected impact shall be considered. We need this amendment to stop the discrimination caused by always putting mental and physical into separate categories. Nebraskans with mental impairments may be just as unable to work and earn livable wages. Raising the income guidelines strikes me as a fair and equitable thing to do, given how much costs of maintaining homes is increasing. But more importantly, it seems discriminatory to leave out a group of mentally disabled people while physically disabled with similar